

FOOTPRINTS

Bethel Lutheran Church Believe—Belong—Become

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” Psalm 119:105

All of them
were filled
with the
Holy Spirit
Acts 2:4a

IN THIS ISSUE:

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And more

FOOTPRINTS



ON THE COVER:

Acts 2:4a

Pixabay

FOOTPRINTS

Issue # 8

With the name **FOOTPRINTS**, we honor our commitment to walk in the steps of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ leaving a legacy for others to follow. At the same time, we look back and acknowledge the Bethel believers and our own personal *cloud of witnesses* who have gone before us leaving their footprints of faith for us to follow. We hope our humble efforts give Glory to God and provide enlightenment, entertainment, and knowledge to our readers. God bless you all!

† † †

Bethel's **vision** is to be a dynamic, life-changing church of fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

† † †

Bethel's **mission** is to engage the curious, encourage the convinced, and empower the committed to be fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

† † †

PoWeR SuRGe

- Pray daily
- Worship regularly
- Read Scripture daily
- Serve others
- Relate to other Christians in Faith
- Give of your financial resources

† † †

Editorial Board:

Gay Hanson (Editor in Chief), Pam Dodane, Pastor Doug Gast, Carole Kuhn, Sarah Manro, Debbie Nielsen, John Patterson, and Pastor Al Schoonover.

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PENTECOST

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Pastor Al

A Tale of Three Gardens

Eden + Gethsemane + Garden Tomb

As I write this article the first week in April, I think it's true: Spring is finally here! We had some pretty wild weather in March . . . a sort of meteorological whiplash between winter and spring: first winter, and then a little tease of spring, and then back to winter again. Oh, my, but was I dizzy for a while there!

That first week in April I finally got out into our backyard to remove the winter debris – the leaves and branches and rocks that had accumulated. An extra challenge for us was we moved into a new house in March that had been vacant for 4 months, so no one paid it much attention last fall. There was a LOT of debris to clean up! As I do this annual cleanup, I realize I also need to fertilize the lawn, and to weed and put mulch in the flowerbeds, and to plant some new flowers. I'll be the first one to confess - I have 10 black thumbs! My mother-in-law Ruth, she was a "plant whisperer." She had a way of making her garden grow wonderfully each year. It was always a profusion of bright colors. She loved to tinker in it; to find just the right balance of flowers. She enjoyed getting her hands in the soil and feeding the flowerbeds. She'd talk to them; occasionally mutter to them – probably to the weeds as they sprouted amongst the flowers.

It seems fitting, then, with spring and flowers all blooming around us, to reflect a bit on three gardens that we find in the Bible, because they are central to our faith life and to the work that God does for us and in us through Jesus Christ. These three gardens, pictured here are: The Garden of Eden, The Garden of Gethsemane, and The Garden Tomb. Each are significant, for they represent something important about our faith and about what happens in our relationship with God.

The Garden of Eden

This is where our relationship with God starts. In Genesis, we read of Creation and God's provision of everything Adam and Eve need for life and for a relationship with God. They have identity. They have purpose. They have an intimate relationship with creation and with their Creator.

This is also where our relationship with God falls apart.

As part of their creatureliness, God gives them one limit, one rule: Don't eat from the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Being human means having limits. Being human means not trying to be God, to be more than we were created to be. Humans are tempted, and they fall short. The result: disobedience enters the picture, and it forever corrupts the relationship with humans and within creation. Consequences descend on creatures and humans alike, and Adam and Eve are banished from Eden.

The Garden of Gethsemane

This brings us to our second garden – the Garden of Gethsemane. This is represented by the picture of Jesus leaning down in prayer. As gardens go, imagine a grove of trees or an orchard rather than a collection of flowerbeds filled with annuals and perennials. The gospels tell us that this garden is on the Mount of Olives, a place filled with groves of olive trees. This is where our relationship with God begins to mend.

This is where Jesus, the true man, is tempted to deny his role and place in God's creation, and (unlike Adam in the first garden) where he overcomes testing. As Luke describes it, Jesus begins and ends this scene in the garden with the same instruction to his disciples, "Pray that you will not give in to temptation" (22:40,46). This is not a casual struggle. As Jesus prays hard, "he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood" (22:44). But where Adam and Eve were disobedient, Jesus is obedient. Which means this garden is a place where the redemption and restoration of the world begins.

The Garden Tomb

Which brings us to our third garden, the Garden Tomb, represented by the bottom picture. This is where our relationship with God is resolved.

In this garden God's plan to have a relationship with humans is restored. Here, God's power prevails over human power. The powers of this world, even in their most benevolent form, lead to death. In the tomb, we realize that God's last word is not death and separation (as in Eden) or in betrayal and suffering (as in Gethsemane), but in new life and restoration. Through Jesus' obedient life, sacrificial death, and resurrection, we are restored in our rightful identity as sons and daughters of God and given the gift of an eternal relationship with God – one that begins now in this life and carries us to our forever life with God after death. *Thanks be to God!*



PROFILE:

Carl & Clara Behrendt



Carl (Horst) and Clara (Schmid) Behrendt



As a couple, Carl and Clara Behrendt serve on Bethel's Care Ministry, visiting shut-ins. Maybe they've had occasion to visit with you. Or, maybe you've been to Saturday evening service here at Bethel and "met" Carl as he "bounces" around greeting people as they come in...while Clara tries to calm him and get them

settled in a pew! There may be a reason they serve on this committee, or reasons.

Both are of German heritage, and from a generation that struggled through WWII...they know the true meaning of "caring."

Clara's father came to the U.S. from southern Germany in the 1920s. He worked in upper Wisconsin at a dairy farm and later in Gary, Indiana at U.S. Steel. Eventually, he married Clara's mother from southern Indiana. Clara was born in Gary, Indiana and when 3 months old, her mother passed away. He eventually remarried and now Clara and her brother, Howard were family with a stepsister and stepbrother added. Clara grew up and went to Manchester College to study business education. She later used her degree to teach at a high school.

Carl's family was from eastern Germany where it was basically Lutheran. Carl was born in Stargard. He had a sister two years older than him and later a sister two years younger. His father worked for the railroad, a valuable occupation during the war. When Carl was in 1st grade, his father had gone to work and he, his sisters and mother were part of the population suddenly removed from their homes by soldiers, put on trucks and taken to trains, put in boxcars

with straw on the floor for sitting and sleeping. It was winter. His mother had wrapped what she could in a blanket to take with them. They were moved from Stargard west, to Hamburg in the north to get them away from approaching Russian attacks. It was after the war before he saw his father again.

Families in Hamburg were checked and if they had a spare room, that is where the now homeless were placed...each family receiving only one room for cooking, sleeping, etc. There were several families in the home where Carl and family were placed...Carl slept on a board between two chairs. Across the street was a park with a large sandbox that the children loved. However, at least twice, they had to run for home when planes came over shooting. The second time, shell fragments caused some wounds on Carl and his one sister. He states that surviving such instances made a believer of him. **"I felt we were like pawns and He (God) guided and used us for His purpose,"** (as in chess, moving forward only one square at a time). You will notice he "displays" his belief in a beautiful cross necklace. Also his love of classical music came from hiding in bushes to listen to an older lady play piano.

Time went on...his father didn't return and a neighbor swore in court she had seen him dead on a sidewalk. Eventually his mother remarried a Serbian who could not remain in Germany. The Serbian Orthodox Church sponsored his mother, stepfather and oldest sister, Ingrid, on a ship to America. They worked in the "bottom of the ship" cooking, helping with children or what was needed. Carl lived with his paternal grandparents where his father eventually returned, and later remarried. He missed many months of school but eventually finished 8th grade there.

His mother and stepfather had settled in Gary, Indiana. She cleaned houses, worked in the steel mills and they also took in boarders to get enough money saved to bring Carl and his sister

to the U.S. They also managed to get the help of a sponsor, in case of need later. With that support, in 1954 Carl and his sister were on a ship headed for America. It was New Year's Eve as they crossed the English Channel and Carl, now 17, and his sister Vera were dancing to celebrate!

Carl had no English. But he needed to help the family with some income. He managed to get a job as a life guard on Lake Michigan until he turned 18. Then he got a job at the steel mill in Gary. Working meant no high school for Carl, but his sister did get to go.

As time went on, Carl began to enjoy life a bit. One evening, he and a friend went bowling. In the next lane were two young ladies...conversations sprang up and eventually he asked the girls if they could drive them home. Clara said she had to call her father to get permission. She was 20 and still in college. When they got to her house, she hopped out and headed for the door. Carl asked if he could see her again and she replied "I'm in the book!" (phone) He did see her again; they dated the two years she was still in college. Carl worked at the steel mill and also attended Electronic Technical Institute in Chicago, driving back and forth a few nights a week...home about midnight. After she graduated, they married in 1958.



Clara taught at a high school for two years. Carl worked in the steel mill in the electronics department and obtained a patent for a tester he invented. He also studied, and received his citizenship. In 1960, he was drafted into the Army. After basic training, he graduated from the military police academy and was picked as a

member of the Army "Old Guard" in Washington, D.C. under President Eisenhower. They moved there for the two years and Clara worked for the Navy.

Back to Gary and the steel mill, then two children, Eric and Heidi. The schooling in electronics paid off; he was hired by General Radio, later GenRad, a manufacturer of

electronic equipment. He became their first Service Engineer. They moved to the Chicago area, and his work grew. For years he might be gone a week at a time, Sunday or Monday through Friday aside from being "on call"...flying all over the U.S. to service the company's electronics....California to New Jersey to Kentucky.

In 1979, they moved to their current home in Noblesville...joined Bethel; "The first time we attended Bethel, it was a feeling like coming home. We had a fantastic welcoming family." Carl continued with GenRad as service rep in 13 states. In 1985, Clara went back to work as a secretary to philanthropist Allen Clowes and The Clowes Fund. After Mr. Clowes passed away, she worked for the Allen W. Clowes Foundation and retired in 2007. Carl finally decided to retire after 30+ years. When he retired, he decided on a new challenge....attending Ivy Tech to learn more about baking! Yes, he loves to bake, not necessarily "cook"! Other hobbies include building and flying model airplanes and drones, has piloted gliders, woodworking, carving, photography (had a dark room) was even church photographer!



*Clara & Carl
Eric (son) & wife Jodie and Dean & wife Heidi (daughter)*

Through all these years, he says "**Clara has been like an angel...loving, caring and also my best nurse!**" He has had some medical issues catch up with him. They have also made visits to relatives in Germany. There are many memories for Carl and Clara's family and all families share those memories. Not all memories might be positive. But with those memories, they have made a positive impact on those they now help "care for" and for each other. This year will mark their 61st wedding anniversary. And they would tell you they are still "but God's pawns."



SATURDAY NIGHT-CASUAL

By Carole Kuhn

Casual Worship Service ...

5:30 Saturday Evening

Walking in to Bethel's Saturday evening service you will see lots of "greeters"...no not at the doors as you enter church, but as you enter the sanctuary. You might see one or more people rushing to share hellos and there are LOTS of free hugs being exchanged!

Remember some experts have said that we "need" a minimum number of EIGHT hugs a day for our good health! You might get your "needs" met here on Saturday evening. Sometimes arriving sad or in deep thought, tired...all gets changed in the open friendliness of those hugs.



"Casual service—"informal" in the dictionary—includes the type of wardrobe/clothing you will see also...a lot of sports clothing, jeans, easy-wear. One Saturday evening even the two pastors put all at a smiling ease by showing up in matching flannel shirts! And declared it wasn't planned.



Pastor Al Schoonover & Pastor Doug Gast

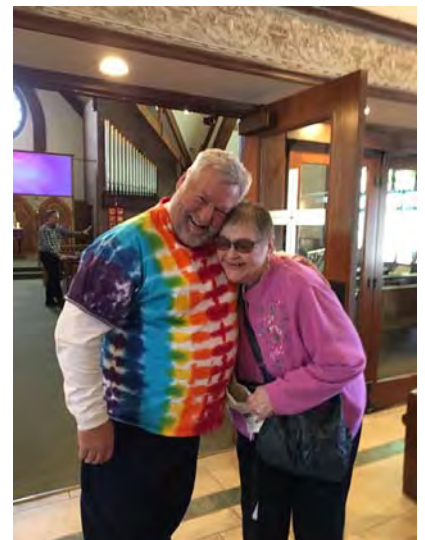
The music on Saturday evening features two groups of members taking turns. A variety of songs are played and sung including old spiritual songs such as *Joshua Fit (Fought) the Battle of Jericho*, *He Comes to the Garden Alone*, considered an older gospel hymn, *Little Jimmy Brown*, considered "country," and some songs that may bring back a lot of memories like *The Old Rugged Cross*.



Members of the music groups include Mike Musick, Gary Turnage, Terri Milbank, Jean Holmes, Mark Guyer, Jackie Schaefer, Linc Schneider, Ernie Schamber, Jennifer Johnson and Suzy Patterson. Linc also writes some of the songs that are presented.

The greetings at arrival and some of the music "set the stage" so to speak, for Casual worship, a warm, friendly atmosphere.

But the main part of the service is the same as that on Sundays... prayers, readings, sermons, communion...all the same.



It's just another of Bethel's open-hearted blessings. Come visit the Huggy Bears!

WORDS & LESSONS FROM MARTIN LUTHER

The whole being of any Christian is faith and love. Faith brings the person to God, love brings the person to people.

God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.

From the beginning of my Reformation I have asked God to send me neither dreams, nor visions, nor angels, but to give me the right understanding of His Word, the Holy Scriptures; for as long as I have God's Word, I know that I am walking in His way and that I shall not fall into any error or delusion.

Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet set on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not.

I have no use for cranks who despise music, because it is a gift of God. Music drives away the Devil and makes people joyful; they forget thereby all wrath, unchastity, arrogance, and the like. Next after theology, I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor.

Pray like it all depends on God, then when you are done, go work like it all depends on you.

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands that I still possess.

A Christian is never in a state of completion but always in a process of becoming.



We need to hear the Gospel every day, because we forget it every day.

You are not only responsible for what you say, but also for what you do not say.

No one can believe how powerful prayer is and what it can effect, except those who have learned it by experience. Whenever I have prayed earnestly, I have been heard and have obtained more than I prayed for. God sometimes delays, but He always comes.

The sin underneath all our sins is to trust the lie of the serpent that we cannot trust the love and grace of Christ and must take matters into our own hands.

The most damnable and pernicious heresy that has ever plagued the mind of man was the idea that somehow he could make himself good enough to deserve to live with an all-holy God.

If you see yourself as a "little sinner" you will inevitably see Jesus as a "little savior."

A simple layman armed with Scripture is greater than the mightiest pope without it.

People go through three conversions: The conversion of their head, their heart, and their pocketbook. Unfortunately, not all at the same time.

We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished.

The world doesn't want to be punished. It wants to remain in darkness. It doesn't want to be told that what it believes is false. If you also don't want to be corrected, then you might as well leave the church and spend your time at the bar and brothel. But if you want to be saved—and remember that there's another life after this one—you must accept correction.

A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing.

Every week I preach justification by faith to my people, because every week they forget it.

Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason—I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other—my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.

VIA DE CRISTO

By Suzy Patterson

What is Via de Cristo and why are so many of us “Bethelites” involved in this movement? What is the purpose of Via de Cristo?

Via de Cristo is a 3-day retreat designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people – you and me. Via de Cristo means “Way of Christ”. This retreat gives us the “tools” to help us to be more like Christ – do what He did, use His language of love and serve others as He taught us to serve. I look at the VdC movement as one of the “tool boxes” God provides for us.

You will WANT to get involved in the spreading of God’s message and love. Where? At your church, in your neighborhood, in your work-place, everywhere you go; e.g. the store or your favorite restaurant. There are endless opportunities.

Bottom-line to the Via de Cristo weekend – you will have strengthened your **relationship with our Triune God**. Everything that we do is about Relationships. Before I went on my Via de Cristo weekend in 2000, I thought I knew



What will you do on this weekend retreat? **Eat** – lots! -- of delicious meals prepared with love by a kitchen crew (part of the bigger team formed with God’s help and a leader called a Rector). **Listen** and discuss various talks, mostly by lay people, like you and me. **Laugh and cry** – it’s a toss-up to see which reaction is greater! **Communion** is a big part of this weekend. Every day starts with a chapel visit, hearing the Word of God, singing wonderful songs, and taking part in communion. **Singing** – you’ve never heard more heartfelt singing! Making new friends is a bonus of this weekend retreat. A big emphasis is on God’s GRACE!!!

So, what do you do with all that you’ve experienced at a Via de Cristo weekend? You will find that God-opportunities open up to you.

Christ. In my head I knew Christ loved me, but that didn’t translate to my heart. Now, I feel God’s presence all around me including in my heart! “...before and behind me, above and below me...” – words of a Christian song our Praise group does – a good explanation of how I feel. Thank you, Jesus!

There are a number of Bethel members who have attended a VdC weekend. As a matter of fact, a good number of us have led a weekend! One of our own will be leading the Men’s Fall Weekend! Please pray about going on a weekend. Talk to any of us who have been (John and I would welcome talking to you). Then pray again. God will open up the door of opportunities for you. Amazing! Amazing Grace!!!

WAY OF CHRIST

Via de Cristo



Walking Together with Christ

Come join us for a Christ centered weekend of worship and learning with **Via de Cristo!** Build on your current relationship with Christ through:

- Talks and sharing from other Christians
- Daily worship and reflection
- Laughter and fellowship in a Christian atmosphere

*We spend a lifetime growing our relationship with Christ...let a **Via de Cristo** weekend be a part of that !!*

Website: www.INKYVDC.org

Dates for Via de Cristo weekends

Men — September 21-24, 2019

Women — September 28-October 1, 2019

Co-ed — November 2-5, 2019



From Faith Inkubators© website: faithink.com



Faith 5—Spiritual Formation

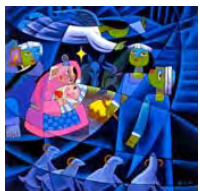
Faith Stepping Stones is a family ministry system that puts parents into the role of primary faith mentors for their own children every night in every home.

Faith must be taught and nurtured over time—it doesn't happen overnight. Faith Stepping Stones is a method and a process that helps bond children and parents into Christ's family in eight steps which are tied to important times in a child's life. It is designed to provide faith-based parenting education from infancy to graduation from high school. It is made to bring parents and their children together for both learning and fun. Each step or stone ends with a special blessing service at the altar.

Through these steps or stones, parents and children develop nightly faith practices. They include: blessing, prayer, scripture reading, sharing of Highs & Lows, faith dialogue, and a nightly "I'm sorry" before turning out the lights on the day. This "every night in every home" ritual blesses the child, strengthens the family, and helps parents recall their baptismal promises while their children learn, experience, and grow.

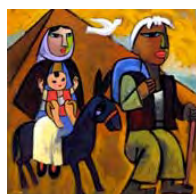
The mission of Faith Stepping Stones is "To bless the child, gift the family, and call parents to the promise every night in every home."

The eight Stones are:



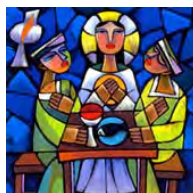
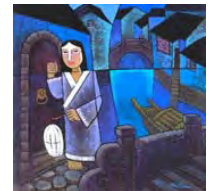
Stone 1: Healthy Baby Sessions on physical, emotional and spiritual needs of infants and their parents. Parents are also taught how to do a nightly blessing as a family faith practice.

Stone 2: Healthy Preschooler Sessions on physical, emotional and spiritual needs of preschoolers and their parents. Parents are taught to add prayer to the nightly blessing as a faith practice.



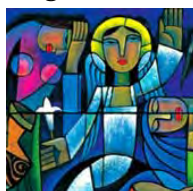
Stone 3: Entering School Sessions on physical, emotional and spiritual needs of kindergartners and their parents. Parents are taught to share Highs & Lows with their children, and add it to their nightly prayers and blessing.

Stone 4: My Bible Sessions highlighting 120 key verses in young readers' Bibles. Youth and parents commit to read a Bible verse nightly, and continue with Highs & Lows, prayer and blessing nightly.



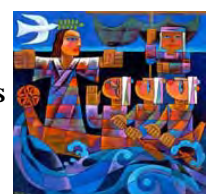
Stone 5: Holy Communion Sessions from Passover to Lord's Supper, with nightly confession and absolution added to the faith practices of Bible reading, Highs & Lows, prayer and blessing.

Stone 6: Surviving Adolescence Sessions on "Surviving Adolescence" where youth and parents learn and commit to the art of theological reflection (i.e., setting the Bible verse and the Highs & Lows of the day together to ask "What is God saying to us today?"), and adding this to the previous faith practices of confession/absolution, Bible reading, Highs & Lows, prayer and blessing continue.



Stone 7: Confirmation Sessions where youth and parents look at their confession, their confirmation, and their call.

Stone 8: Graduation Sessions spread over the fall, winter, and spring where seniors and their parents look back God's blessings, look to the moment, and look to the future of their new callings.



Resources and images taken from Faith5/Faith Inkubators© website.

TRADITIONS & SYMBOLS

Pentecost: Have you ever wondered?

By Gay Hanson

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1-4



They were all filled with the Holy Spirit ...
Acts 2:4, ESV



Pentecost is when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit as related in Acts 2. The symbols of Pentecost are those of the Holy Spirit: flames, wind, the breath of God, and a dove.

Pentecost is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter (the name comes from the Greek *pentekoste*, "fiftieth"). It is also called Whitsun/Whitsunday. Some think the name comes from the white clothes worn by the newly baptized, but it may be derived from "wit" or "wisdom" - the reference being to Holy Wisdom referred to in Proverbs and the Book of Wisdom, with which the Holy Spirit has been identified

Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Christian church, and the start of the church's mission to the world for this is when the Apostles began teaching the gospel and baptizing.

Pentecost is a joyous festival. Ministers in church often wear robes with red in the design as a symbol of the flames in which the Holy Spirit came to earth. Hymns sung at Pentecost take the Holy Spirit as their theme, and include:



*Come Down O Love Divine
Come Holy Ghost Our Souls Inspire
Breathe On Me Breath of God
O Breath of Life, Come Sweeping Through Us
There's a Spirit in the Air
Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh On Me*

Pentecost is associated with the Jewish harvest festival called Shavuot or the "Feast of Weeks" that commemorates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. The apostles were celebrating this festival when the Holy Spirit descended on them.



It sounded like a very strong wind, and it looked like tongues of fire.

The apostles then found themselves speaking in foreign languages, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The color of Pentecost is red symbolizing the power and fire of the Holy Spirit. Churches often welcome new members on Pentecost through baptism or Confirmation*.



*Pentecost
& Confirmation*

* - Bethel usually has Confirmation on Pentecost, but this is not so in 2019 due to how late in June Pentecost comes.



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

LUTHERAN WEEK 2019



2019 CONVOCATION THEME

Every year, the North American Lutheran Church gathers for **Lutheran Week**! The week is more than a conference, more than a church festival and much more than a business meeting. The NALC Lutheran Week is all of that and more!

This year's theme is, ***Walking by the Spirit with the Fruit of the Spirit.***

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Galatians 5:16-23

LUTHERAN WEEK EVENTS

The events of Lutheran Week will include the annual Ventures in Youth Ministry Symposium, Women of the NALC Gathering, Carl E. Braaten-Robert D. Benne Lectures in Theology, Mission Festival and Convocation.

ELECTION OF NEW BISHOP

The 2019 Convocation will also elect a new bishop for a four-year term. Rev. John Bradosky will be stepping down after serving the NALC for two terms as Bishop.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Since the Convocation will be held in Indianapolis, Bethel and the other churches of the Heartland Mission District will be “hosting” the event. This means that volunteers will be need to serve as hosts, registration, display assistants, users, and emergency responders. Orientation/training will be provided.

Volunteer forms are available on the website and in the narthex at church. Please consider helping with this year's convocation! If you have questions, please contact Bethel's Convocation Volunteer Coordinator Mary Jo Mikulski at mj.mikulski@reagan.com.

ASK THE PASTOR



IS THERE SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK?

By Pastor Doug Gast

Why do we do blessings?

As I reflect back on my 42 years of being a pastor, probably for the first 3/4ths of my ministry, I never took the time or the energy to do a special blessing in a worship service for anything or anyone. It just seemed a needless extra. Plus everyone knew that what we were doing was good and godly. We were doing God's work. So what was the point? Why add on to an already full service? No one—and I am sorry to say, least of all me—cared.

But over the last 10 years or so our mission work has been far more grassroots. We added a missions committee to one of our church council's positions and responsibility. We began to do more than send benevolence dollars to a national church and call it good. We began to see more and more that we had been entrusted with a personal hands-on approach to God's kingdom mission work. And our mission ministry grew to the point that we are today supporting local, national, and international missions. We are humbly grateful and blessed to be God's blessing in the world and community around us.

Last June, our friend Mulugeta from Ethiopia was here visiting on the weekend of the Rummage Sale. As we walked around the building, he was amazed at all the stuff donated. He made a statement and then asked a question that stuck with me. He said "Your church is very blessed from God." Then came the question, "So when do you bless everything, because someone might buy something, and wouldn't it be important if part of Jesus went home with them? You know Jesus goes with things that are blessed." Asking God's blessings on people and things that were going out into the world had been a growing part of our prayers and practice. But that afternoon several of us went throughout the building asking God to bless each room, everything in that space, all who would be working there, and especially those who would be purchasing these treasures and that part of Jesus would go with and bless each person. Mulugeta was right, and right there and then I made a personal commitment to make "Blessing" an essential part of our worship and prayer life as a people of God. Therefore, asking God's blessing on mission activities and people going on mission trips is so much more

important. We are now at a point where there are very few things that we send out into the world without asking God's blessing on it first.

A blessing according to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary is "the act or words of one that blesses" or "a thing conducive to happiness or welfare." Both definitions are evident in Scripture.



The terms blessing and bless permeate Scripture. In the Old Testament alone, the word blessing is used more than 600 times and is deeply rooted in God's covenant relationship with the Hebrew people. Our foundational stories in Genesis 1 tell us that God created the living creatures of land and sea and blessed them. (Gen 1:22) Then God created humans male and female in His image and blessed them as well. (Gen 1:27-28) Our very origins began with God intentionally blessing that which He created.

One of my personal favorite Scriptures is Genesis 12 where God blesses Abraham so that he can be a blessing. And the rest of the story of God's people is that when and where they used their blessing to be a blessing, they were blessed even more. But when they kept their blessings just for themselves, things went bad in a rapid fashion. But God is not the only one who pronounces blessings. When Rebekah left her home to marry Isaac, her family blessed her by saying "May you increase to thousands upon thousands . . ." (Gen 24:60) When Isaac was ready to die, he pronounced this blessing on his son Jacob, "May God give you heaven's dew and earth's richness—an abundance of grain and new wine. May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed and those who bless you be blessed." (Gen 27:28-29) The Psalms are full of references to happiness and blessings being closely connected together for those who love and fear of the Lord God. Jesus' own life was devoted to sharing His blessing with those around Him. On the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus begins His memorable message by sharing nine moments in a person's life where they are blessed. People came to Him in droves so that He could bless their children. Before Jesus performed many of His miracles, He looked to heaven for a blessing from His Heavenly Father.

In the New Testament, the theme of blessings continues. The Apostle Paul emphasizes the spiritual value of

Continued on page 26.

SEASONS & HOLY DAYS

PENTECOST: WIND AND FIRE

By Carole Kuhn

“Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.” Acts 2:2-3 (NIV)

It was the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem and thousands from many nations and of many languages were gathered to celebrate the Feast of Weeks. With the wind, tongues of fire had seemed to descend on the head of each of the Apostles and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and given the ability to speak in everyone’s language. Luke writes in Acts 1:5 that after Jesus rose from the dead, he was eating with the Apostles when he told them not to leave Jerusalem “...for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (NIV)

Peter pointed out to the crowds that Joel quoted God “I will pour out my spirit on all people...” Joel 2:28 (NIV)

Wind and flames are often used in the Bible to emphasize the power of God. Amos 4:13 speaks of “He who forms the mountains, creates the wind...the Lord God Almighty is His name.” (NIV) When Moses led the people from Egypt, the Lord separated the sea with a strong East wind. (Exodus 14:21, 22 NIV) “He let loose the east wind from the heavens and led forth the south wind by His power.” (Psalm 78:26 NIV)

Pentecost is often called the birthday of the church. On that day in Jerusalem, about 3,000 were baptized. One Christian definition reminds us the “wind” of the Holy Spirit shows how people were led to believe in God. We are reminded to remember to carry on Christ’s mission of sharing God’s word.

Pentecost is celebrated the 7th Sunday after Easter. Paraments are in red signifying the Holy Spirit in the red of the flames. Some say the red is also to remind us of the blood of martyrs. After the day of Pentecost, the time is termed “ordinary time,” leading to Christ the King Sunday in November and then Advent.

The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit..
John 3:8

Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’”
Ezekiel 37:9

Whoever brings ruin on their family will inherit only wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise.
Proverbs 11:29

LUTHERAN CHRISTIANS

WHO WE ARE - WHAT WE BELIEVE

By Gay Hanson

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

The first Sunday after Pentecost is **Holy Trinity Sunday** in the Lutheran Church. **Holy Trinity Sunday** commemorates a reality and a doctrine rather than a person or event. On this day, Christians remember and honor God, the Three-in-One (Trinity); Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



The Trinity is one of the most difficult realities to explain. The word Trinity is not found anywhere in the Bible, but there are places where God the Father, Son, and Spirit are all present. The Baptism of Jesus is one of the most obvious. The Trinity is often described as a “mystery,” but by that, the Church means that it is a reality above our human ability to fully comprehend. We may understand it in part, but ultimately, it is something we have to accept by faith.

It is a difficult concept. We worship a single God, but a God existing in three equal Persons, all of whom have always coexisted. There is God the Father, who created the universe. Jesus is the Son of God but is both fully God and fully human. Jesus was present at the creation, but He became fully human, giving Himself for us both for the redemption of sin and as a model of the Godly life, showing us the kind of people we should be. Jesus lived among us, filled with grace and truth, but He did so both as true God and true man. That is to say, He took human form, became human, through and through. He was without sin, but He was subject to human frailties and disappointments. He could experience hunger, pain, sadness. By doing so, He became aware of how our earthly difficulties

can beset and torment us, and He experienced an excruciating death. But he also provided us the forgiveness of sins that only God can give. The Holy Spirit is also fully God. Sometimes called “the present tense of God.” The Spirit was involved in the creation of the world and has provided comfort and encouragement for God’s people since the beginning of time and is present for us today.

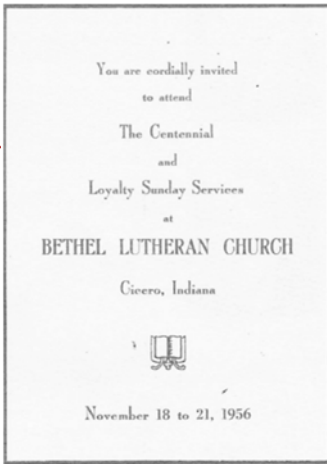
All three of the Creeds testify to the Trinity. The Apostles Creed is the oldest, the shortest, and the one most often used. The Nicene Creed was written in the 4th Century, A.D. at a council in the Greek city of Nicea. At the time, there were many controversies and heresies which denied that Jesus was fully God and fully man. They were threatening to destroy the church. For this reason, the second part of the Nicene Creed, having to do with Jesus, devotes a longer discussion to Jesus and His relationship to the Father. Finally, there’s the Athanasian Creed which came into being in the 5th or 6th Century. It is the longest creed and is usually said only once a year – on **Holy Trinity Sunday**. Because the Trinity was a difficult concept for the early Christians as it is for us, the Athanasian Creed spends a great deal of time on describing the nature of the Trinity.

***I believe in God,
the Father almighty,...
I believe in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, our Lord,...
I believe in the Holy Spirit,...***

Ultimately, the Three-in-One God or Trinity shows a loving God. A God of creation. A God who is willing to become human so that we can become more like Him and be with him for eternity. A God that comes as the Holy Spirit to be with us, guide us, and help us to salvation.

CHURCH HISTORY

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH: 1956 to 1981



The next milestone in Bethel's history was the Centennial Celebration in November of 1956. In addition to the traditional anniversary worship services and other festivities, a commemorative booklet was printed. That first century of progress provided a strong foundation for the further building, both spiritual and material, that identifies the next 25-year span.

during this time period. A family room was added in 1958 and a garage and breezeway were built in 1963.



The sanctuary had undergone significant changes as well. The previous 25 years had seen a church with bare floors, creaky pews, a brown linoleum aisle runner, and dull green walls transformed into a truly beautiful house of worship with its own charm and grace. The church interior was painted in 1963 and again in 1977. The new pews, carpeting, communion rail, and choir lofts were installed in 1964. The pews were refinished and reupholstered in 1978.



Bethel Choir at 100th Anniversary

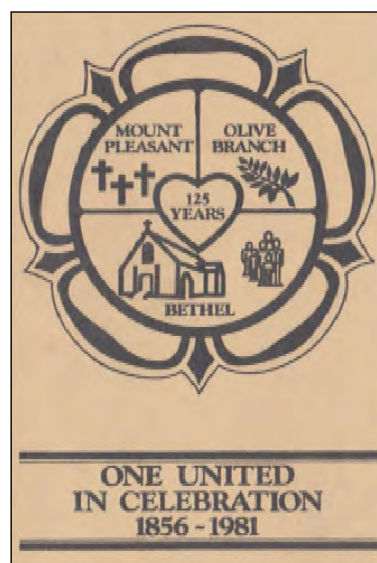
Church membership had been building through the years...gaining some new ones, losing some old ones, but overall a steady increase. At the end of

In the late '50s, it became apparent that the small brick building on Jackson St. was becoming inadequate. A study of needs was begun by the more than 100 members, under the guidance of Pastor White. Untold hours of meetings and hard work engulfed the congregation in the months to come, but their

perseverance resulted in the Christian Education Annex, built in 1966 at a cost of \$52,600. At the ground breaking ceremonies for the new unit, Rev. Gerald North guided a walking plow while church council members pulled it. The parsonage also underwent some much needed improvement



Educational Wing mortgage burning November, 1970



125th Anniversary Program

1980, the baptized membership stood at 246 and confirmed membership was 196.

So numerous are the memories of Bethel, it is difficult to recount them all. At the time of the 125th Anniversary in October 1981, having reflected on Bethel's past, one fact stood out - namely, that as each new goal was reached, another appeared on the horizon, and so it must always be. So it is today!



CHURCH MUSIC

HYMNS & SONGS

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

This well-known Christian hymn was written by Reginald Heber (1783-1826) for use on Trinity Sunday and speaks specifically of the Holy Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Reginald Heber came from a wealthy family in England. He attended Oxford University and won several awards for poetry before taking Holy Orders. The words were probably written between 1807 and 1823 while he was Vicar at Hodnet in Shropshire, England. In 1823, Heber became the Bishop of Calcutta, which meant he was Bishop of British India. In that position, he worked tirelessly to build a training school for local clergy and traveled extensively around India preaching the gospel. He suffered a stroke and died in 1826 at the age of 42.

Reginald's widow found the words to this hymn and others in his papers. She had a number of his hymns published after his death, but it would be years before these words would be discovered by a publisher and put to music. The publisher asked John Bacchus Dykes to write the music for them. John had been a church organist since the age of 10 and was co-founder of the Cambridge University Music Society.

Dykes composed the tune for this hymn and called it "Nicaea" as a tribute to the First Council of Nicaea which formalized the doctrine of the Trinity in 325. It took him only 30 minutes to write the tune in praise of the Trinity.

The text is based on Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:1-11 and also quotes from the Latin Mass in the use of "Holy, Holy, Holy"—the Trisagion (thrice Holy). Heber was careful to describe the Trinity without encroaching on the mystery of it, and even though the Trinity remains a "mystery," the collaboration of Heber and Dykes reminds us that we worship the Triune God.

One of the most intriguing things about the hymn is how the text does not initiate praise but rather encourages the singer to join in an endless song—with all the Hosts of Heaven and earth!

The hymn is one of the most popular and well known hymns around the world. It is used by many Christian denominations, and its words span both the Old and New Testaments. The words and music have combined to bring songs of praise to our God for almost two centuries.



"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty"

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

ELW #413 or LBW #165

*Author: Reginald Heber, 1827 Composer: John B. Dykes, 1861
Tune: Nicaea*

Isaiah 6:3 (NIV)

And they were calling to one another:
"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

Revelation 4:1-11 (NIV)

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

"'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,' who was, and is, and is to come."

Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

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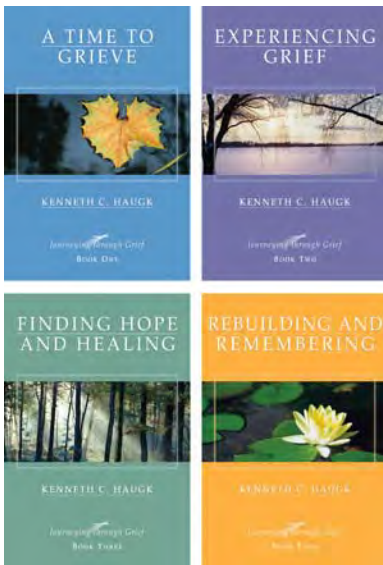
CARE MINISTRY

*He Heals the broken in heart
and binds up their wounds.*

Psalm 147:3

“Journeying Through Grief” Books

One of the many “behind the scenes” ministries of Bethel’s Care Ministry involves sending out books to those members of Bethel who have lost a loved one and are grieving. Jane Nee has been in charge of this part of the Care Ministry for many years now.



The books, published by Stephen Ministries, are a four-part series. They are given or mailed out over the course of the year following the loss of a loved one. Called “Journeying through Grief,” the books are written by the pastor and clinical psychologist, Dr. Kenneth C. Haugk. Dr. Haugk is the

founder and executive director of Stephens Ministries.

Over the years, Dr. Haugk has counseled and cared for many people who were grieving the loss of a loved one. The ministry took on even more significance for him when he had to deal with the loss of his wife to cancer. In putting together the books, he writes from the experiences of his own loss, his professional experience, and his faith.

Each of the books is written in a warm and caring style in short and easy-to-read chapters.

The author walks with the reader through the grief journey sharing insights, biblical truths and stories to provide comfort and reassurance.

The titles are:


A Time to Grieve—sent 3 weeks after the loss;

Experiencing Grief—sent 3 months after the loss;

Finding Hope and Healing—sent 6 months after the loss; and

Rebuilding and Remembering— sent 11 months after the loss.

Each book focuses on what the person is likely to be experiencing at that point in grief—offering understanding, empathy, compassion, and hope.



Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRIES

Stephens Ministries is a Christian not-for-profit training and education organization located in St. Louis, MO.

Since 1975, they have provided Christ-centered training and resources to thousands of congregations from more than 160 denominations.

They offer resources in the areas of grief support, lay caregiving, small group ministry, spiritual gifts discovery, caring evangelism, spiritual growth, caring for inactive members, and more.

MISSIONS

“GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES...”

FOOD & BABY PANTRY

By Gay Hanson



IT'S IN THE BAG!

Beginning in February 2019, Bethel Missions decided to try “theme-based” drives for the Food & Baby Pantry. Based on Pantry needs and some alliteration, the themes included:



In addition to the themes, the Missions Committee decided to purchase a number of bright red reusable shopping bags with the Bethel logo and information on them. Tags were prepared, laminated, and attached to the bags so that shoppers had the list for that month right on the bag!



Together, these ideas have made for very successful drives for the pantry. However, these themes and the bags are only ways to promote giving to the pantry — the real drive behind it all are the Mission hearts of the disciples of Bethel! Without our shoppers and givers and all the folks who volunteer at the Pantry, none of this would be possible. So “**THANK YOU**” to everyone who shops, gives, volunteers, and promotes the Bethel Food and Baby Pantry!



CHRISTIAN

SUMMER

Vacation Bible School

June 23-27



“This epic African adventure engages the whole herd. At Roar, kids explore God’s goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life.” *ROAR! Overview.*

BIBLE POINTS

When life is unfair... God is good!
When life is scary... God is good
When life changes... God is good!
When life is sad... God is good!
When life is good... God is good!

JOIN US AND MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS!

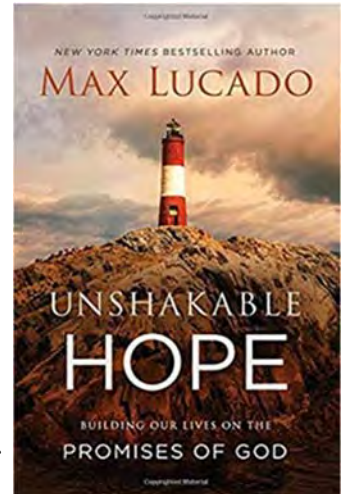


Want to help? Contact Kris Lingenfelter at kris@bethellutheranchurch.com.

Unshakable Hope

Building our Lives on the Promises of God
Summer Sermon Series | Starting June 16

Hope is hard to come by these days. Whether it’s heart disease or cancer, job failure or addiction, natural disasters or family disasters, mass murders or mental illness, there are so many reasons to be overwhelmed. In a world full of instability, we do not need more opinions or hunches; we need the definitive declarations of our mighty and loving God. On what is our life built — the circumstances of life or the promises of God? The answer to that question changes everything. This summer we will explore some of Scripture’s unbreakable promises and drink deeply from the living waters of God’s unshakable hope. Join us each week in the Fellowship Hall during the Discipleship Hour for a discussion of that week’s promise.



EDUCATION

WORDS IN WORSHIP



Amen – So be it / Truly

Word origin: from the Greek amen and Hebrew 'āmēn meaning 'truth, certainty.' It was used adverbially as expression of agreement, and adopted in the Septuagint as a solemn expression of belief or affirmation.*



Alleluia (Hallelujah) –
God be Praised! / Praise the Lord!

*Word origin: from church Latin **alleluia** which was from Greek **allēlouia** in the Septuagint* or directly from Hebrew **hallelūyāh** 'praise ye the Lord'.*



Hosanna – Save us, we pray / shout of praise or adoration; an acclamation.

*Word origin: from Greek hosanna or from Rabbinical Hebrew **hōša'nā**, abbreviation of biblical **hōš'ā-nnā** 'save, we pray' (Ps. 118:25).*



Peace
I leave with you;
My Peace
I give to you.
John 14:27, NRSV

Peace be with you

In sharing “The Peace of Christ,” we express the reconciliation, unity, and love that are in Christ. It is a sign of the blessing and presence of God - a sharing of the peace that comes only from God. It is a demonstration that as God’s people we are seeking to abide in the peace of God. It expresses an openness to the power of God’s love to heal our brokenness and make us agents of that love in the world.

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”
John 14:27*

**The Septuagint was the earliest Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures.*

FOCUS ON MINISTRY

Communications

By Gay Hanson

The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines “communication” as “a process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system of symbols, signs, or behavior.”

At Bethel, communication occurs in a wide variety of ways.

Spoken word: The pastors make announcements at almost every worship service in addition to their sermons. Various members of the congregation communicate information on what is happening through spoken announcements, mission minutes, classes, forums, and conversation during fellowship times.



Written word:

The *Bethel News* is packed with information every week on what is going on at Bethel, what events and activities are coming up, and calendars with important dates.



The *Welcome Sheet* collects information on who is present at services and lets people know where help is needed and provides a way to sign up for activities, missions, events, etc.

The *Prayer List* gives information on those among the congregation or connected to members of the congregation who specifically need prayer support. It also keeps members of the military connected to Bethel connected to the prayers of Bethel.



FootPrints provides information on the people, history, and faith system of Bethel. From profiles of the pastors, staff, or members to the history of Bethel to information on the various missions, ministries, and teams to what it means to be Lutheran, *FootPrints* provides a colorful publication packed with information.

Email blast—the pastors put out a weekly “Happenings at Bethel” email with a faith aspect and a list of events and activities to be aware of in the coming week or weeks.

Signs, Banners & Maps—inside and outside. Directional and informational signs, banners, and maps help promote activities and events and direct people to and around Bethel.



Social and Online Media:



Website: www.BethelLutheranChurch.com provides basic information for visitors as well as more in-depth information for both visitors and members on the various activities and ministries of Bethel. Videos of sermons and messages from various worship services are posted on a weekly basis so that anyone can hear or re-hear the messages.



Facebook: Bethel has a public Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/BethelLutheranChurchNoblesville/> or do a search for Bethel Lutheran Church Noblesville. If you are in to Facebook, check it out!



BOOKS OF INTEREST

Reviews by Debbie Nielsen

**Reading level:
Kindergarten to Adult**



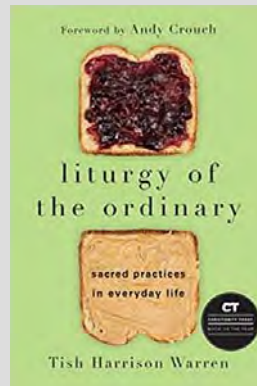
SIDNEY & NORMAN A TALE OF TWO PIGS

by Phil Vischer

Illustrated by Justin Gerard

Next-door neighbors Sidney and Norman live very different lives. Norman does everything by the book--the Good Book--and is sure that God is just as happy with him as he is with himself. Sidney can't seem to get anything right. He's pretty sure that God is as disappointed with him as he is with himself. One day Sidney and Norman each get an invitation to meet with God for a little talk. He has something He wants to tell each of them privately. Norman's sure God wants an opportunity to tell him what a great job he's doing. Sidney's sure the outcome will be like an "invitation" to the Principal's office. Each one is in for a big surprise. And the outcome of each meeting is a lesson in both humility and God's unconditional love. Though classified as a juvenile title, *Sidney & Norman* will resonate with kids of all ages--sometimes adults need a reminder about giving and receiving unconditional love, too.

**Reading level:
High School/Adult**



LITURGY OF THE ORDINARY SACRED PRACTICES IN EVERYDAY LIFE

by Tish Harrison Warren

Far too often, our busy-ness translates to too little time for noticing and experiencing God. What if we viewed an ordinary day through the perspective offered by the liturgy? Tish Harrison Warren encourages readers to take a fresh look at connecting God's presence to our days' most mundane events--making the bed, losing our keys, sitting in traffic, checking e-mail. The result is a renewed commitment to living out the elements of the liturgy. Selected by *Christianity Today Magazine* as 2018 Book-of-the-Year, *Liturgy of the Ordinary* will help revitalize the Christian walk of even the busiest Christ-follower.

**Suggested Audience:
All Ages (Best for 8+)***



I BELIEVE

DVD

Nine-year-old Brian sets out on a faith-building adventure that deeply challenges the "non-beliefs" of his TV newscaster and avowed atheist father. Through a series of undeniable "newsworthy" demonstrations of the power of God, Brian's innocent faith ultimately proves that often, "A little child shall lead them." A heartwarming family film, *I Believe* will inspire children and adults alike.

*Parents, please see specifics on content ratings at <https://dove.org/review/12255-i-believe/>



FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Now fear the LORD and serve him with all _____ . *Joshua 24:14*
2. Surely your _____ and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. *Psalms 23:6*
3. Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks _____ . *Proverbs 25:28*
4. Blessed are the _____ makers, for they will be called children of God. *Matthew 5:9*
5. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great _____ for all the people. *Luke 2:10*
6. "A new command I give you: _____ one another. As I have loved you, so you must _____ one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you _____ one another." *John 13:34-35*
7. Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, _____ and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? *Romans 2:4*
8. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his _____ to us in Christ Jesus. *Ephesians 2:6-7*
9. Let your _____ be evident to all. The Lord is near. *Philippians 4:5*
10. Together these are known as the _____ of the _____ and are found in *Galatians 5:22-23*.

Answers on Page 26.





PENTECOST Word Search

They were all filled with
the Holy Spirit ...

Acts 2:4, ESV



AMAZED
CHURCH
DISCIPLES
FIFTY
FILLED
FIRE

GOD
HEAR
HEAVEN
HOLY
JERUSALEM
JESUS

LANGUAGES
PENTECOST
PETER
POWER
PRAYER
PRESENCE

SOUND
SPEAK
SPIRIT
TEACH
TONGUES
WIND

Answers may be found on Page 26.

CALENDAR

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Bethel Lutheran Church functions on a liturgical calendar with seasons and holy days. There are colors associated with each of the seasons and holy days. These are shown on this calendar and are reflected in the paraments in the sanctuary.

DAY	DATE	CHURCH CALENDAR
Sunday	5/5/19	3rd Sunday of Easter
Sunday	5/12/19	4th Sunday of Easter
Sunday	5/19/19	5th Sunday of Easter
Sunday	5/26/19	6th Sunday of Easter
Thursday	5/30/19	Ascension of the Lord
Sunday	6/2/19	7th Sunday of Easter
Sunday	6/9/19	Day of Pentecost
Sunday	6/16/19	The Holy Trinity
Sunday	6/23/19	2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	6/30/19	3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/7/19	4th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/14/19	5th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/21/19	6th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	7/28/19	7th Sunday after Pentecost

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

May 1, 2019 — August 9, 2019

- May 1 Healing Service 7 p.m.
- May 5 Blood Drive 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- May 19 Confirmation at 11:11 a.m. service
- May 30 *Ascension Day*
- June 5 Healing Service 7 p.m.
- June 9 *Pentecost*
- June 14 & 15 Rummage Sale
- June 15 & 16 Congregational Annual Meeting
- June 16 *Holy Trinity Sunday*
- June 19-22 SERVE Noblesville
- June 23-27 Vacation Bible School—ROAR!
- July 3 Healing Service 7 p.m.
- Aug 5-9 Lutheran Week—NALC Convocation
- Aug 14 Healing Service 7 p.m.
Date change due to NALC Convocation

Ask the Pastor *Continued from page 13.*

blessings when he wrote his Ephesian friends: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” (Eph 1:3) Throughout Scripture, blessings had great power and words had energy, emanating from deep within the soul. Certainly God takes blessings seriously. Once something or someone was blessed, it stuck.

In his book *“Life of the Beloved,”* Henri Nouwen says that to give someone a blessing is the most significant affirmation we can give. Taking time for asking God’s blessing is an expression of a truly grateful heart, it is a reminder that what we do and say are all important. It is a Bible-centered practice of God and His people. It is a recognition and reminder that “every good and perfect gift comes from above.” (James 1:17) And it is the hope and promise that God truly goes with every person or thing that is blessed. I don’t think there are many more important things in life than that. If you asked me why missions are so numerous and so fruitful here at Bethel, I would humbly respond by saying, “Because we ask God’s blessings on what we do and share.” The Aaronic benediction that many of us know by heart begins: “May the Lord bless you and keep you . . .” That’s my hope . . . that’s my prayer.

Word Search



Answers to Fill In on page 24:

1. faithfulness; 2. goodness; 3. self-control; 4. peace;
5. joy; 6. love; 7. forbearance; 8. kindness;
9. gentleness; and 10. fruits of the spirit.

Events & Activities

SERVICE OF HEALING

Ascension OF THE LORD

Pentecost

Holy TRINITY SUNDAY

CONFIRMATION

RUMMAGE sale

ROAR!
Life is Wild • God is good

2019 VBS

Bethel Lutheran
Believe † Belong † Become
Congregational Meeting

SERVE: Noblesville
CONNECTING COMPASSIONATE NEIGHBORS

SUMMER LUTHERAN HILLS LUTHER WILD CAMP

BUY A SHINGLE

Bethel Lutheran
Believe † Belong † Become

School Backpack Supply Drive

ANNUAL CONVOCATION NALC
North American Lutheran Church
LUTHERAN WEEK

Stay in the Word

WORSHIP THE LORD!



WEEKEND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SATURDAY

5:30 p.m. – Casual Worship

SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. – Classic Worship

10:00 a.m. – Christian Education Hour

11:11 a.m. – Praise Worship

Communion will be celebrated at all services.

OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

HEALING SERVICES

May 1 — 7:00 p.m.

June 5 — 7:00 p.m.

July 3 — 7:00 p.m.

August 14 — 7:00 p.m. – Healing Service

(August date change because of NALC Convocation)

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Sunday, May 19 — 11:11 a.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church

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Noblesville, IN 46062

317.773.4315

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NALC
North American Lutheran Church